

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1091

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Scott Banbury, Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Scott Banbury, who is being honored at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Banbury's abiding commitment to excellence and dedication to environmental stewardship as Conservation Coordinator for the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club is a credit to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, Scott Banbury was first inspired to make campaigning for environmental justice his life's work in 1985, when he worked with the Bay Area Chapter of the Sierra Club in California to relocate a sewer line that was contaminating the water of his favorite surfing spot in Santa Cruz, California; and

WHEREAS, after that initial success, Mr. Banbury spent a couple of summers camping and rock climbing in Yosemite Valley with other Sierra Club members; when the group decided to go to northern California to defend the Redwoods from the Pacific Lumber Company's clear-cutting efforts, he went along and offered his help; and

WHEREAS, Scott Banbury used his rock-climbing prowess to teach other activists how to climb the giant trees and construct tree-sitting stands so that the grove could not be cut down; later, as part of a support team, he stealthily brought in supplies for those who were staging the tree protests; and

WHEREAS, after relocating to Memphis in 1989, Mr. Banbury continued his environmental activism; his campaign with Greenpeace regarding pollution at Velsicol Chemical's operation in North Memphis became the cover story of the first issue of the *Memphis Flyer*; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to engage in community dialogue about a longterm cleanup plan for the site; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving his community, Scott Banbury ran for a seat on the Shelby County Commission in 2003 and the Memphis City Council in 2012; although he was not elected, he plans to seek office again in the near future as a means of "interjecting some meaningful policy debate into the discussion"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Banbury is the owner of Midtown Logging and Lumber Company; he describes his ownership as a "right livelihood" in that he harvests wood sustainably and ethically; and

WHEREAS, currently campaigning against the privatization of Tennessee's rivers and surface mining with the Sierra Club, he was recently one of the key contributors to the discussion surrounding the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) decision to retire the Allen Fossil Plant in Memphis in favor of building a new natural gas-burning plant nearby; and

WHEREAS, Scott Banbury is also working tirelessly to encourage more rapid adoption of solar and wind energy in TVA's power grid, convinced that with the integration of the EPA's Clean Power Plan, which requires states to reduce their carbon output thirty percent by 2030, alternative energy sources will become increasingly competitive; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Banbury has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in their community, which he has shown through his leadership in the Sierra Club; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Scott Banbury has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; his commitment to excellence and community

service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Scott Banbury upon his recognition at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.